REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 - 5 were originally pending in this application. In this preliminary amendment, claims 1 - 5 have been cancelled and new claims 6 - 18 have been added. Thus, claims 6 - 18 remain in this application. No new matter has been added.

Substitute Specification

In addition to the amendments made to the claims, submitted herewith is a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.125(b). This substitute specification is submitted to place the application in a form that is consistent with practice before the USPTO. More specifically, the substitute application corrects gross grammatical, syntactic, and technical errors that occurred in the original filing. In particular, the substitute specification amends the application to more accurately reflect the claimed invention. Additionally, the specification has been amended to bring the "ABSTRACT" into compliance with MPEP § 608.01(b) to follow the language of new independent claim 6 in less than 150 words.

Furthermore, the line numbering of the originally submitted application has been removed and the paragraphs of this substitute specification have been individually numbered in Arabic numerals so that any amendment to the specification may be made by replacement paragraph in accordance with Section 1.121(b)(1). A marked up version of the substitute specification showing all the changes to the specification filed December 12, 2003 is submitted herewith as Appendix A. No new matter has been added to the substitute specification.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the consideration and allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 17, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: 04344 (3883.00066)